German Elections
1928 - 1938

Volksabstimmung und Großdeutscher Reichstag

Stimmzettel

Bist Du mit der am 13. März 1938 vollzogenen

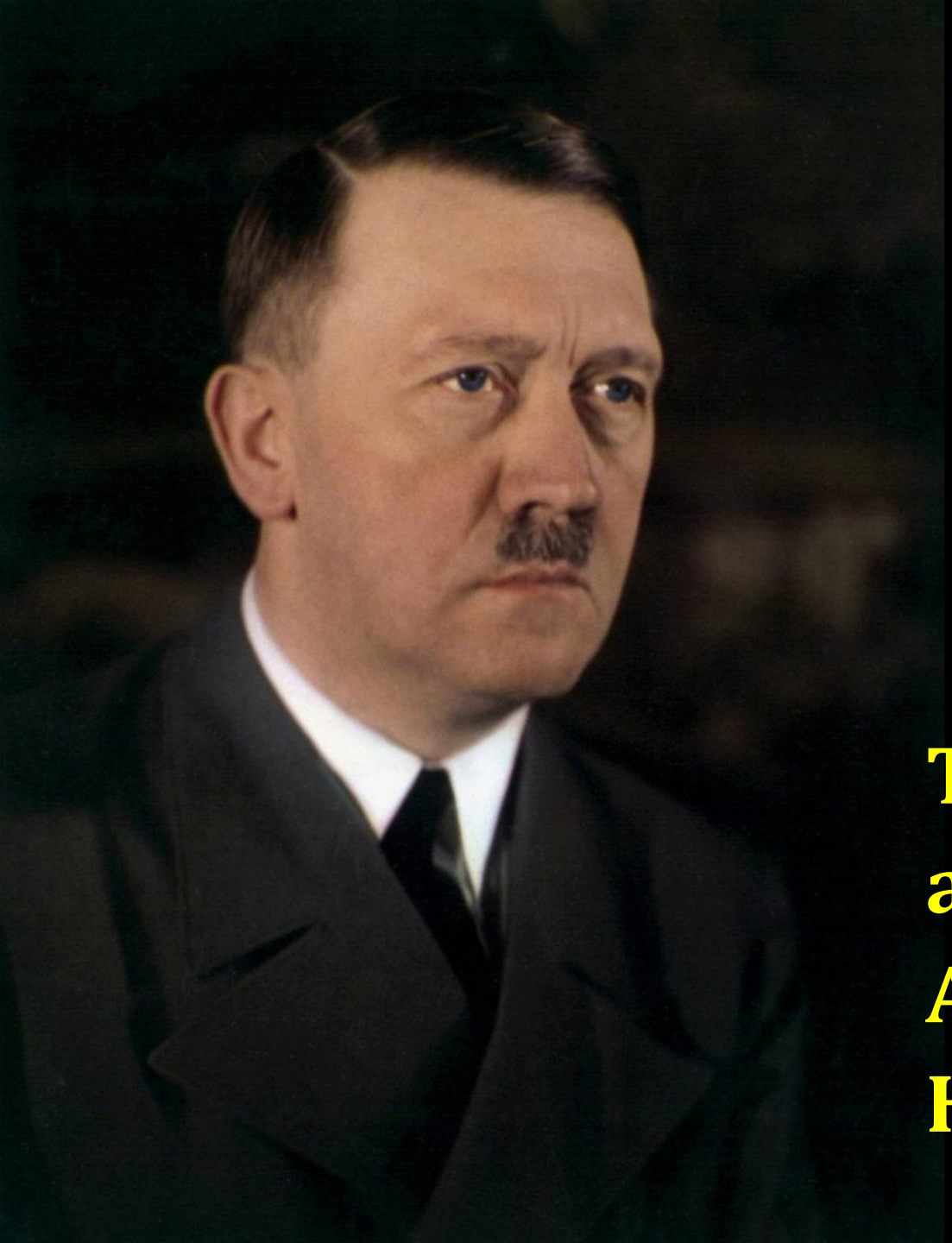
Wiedervereinigung Österreichs mit dem Deutschen Reich

einverstanden und stimmst Du für die Liste unseres Führers

Adolf Hitler?

Ja

Nein



The german people elected a criminal for leader Adolf Hitler (convicted)

History of elections 1930 - 1938

German federal election, 1928

Federal elections were held in Germany on 20 May 1928. The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) remained the largest party in the Reichstag after winning 153 of the 491 seats. Voter turnout was **75.6%.**

The only two parties to gain significantly were the SPD, who polled almost a third of votes, and the ***Communist Party of Germany (KPD),*** completing a thorough victory of the left wing. However, although the SPD now had 153 seats, it still failed to gain a clear majority, resulting in another coalition government led by Hermann Müller. Following his appointment, Müller, who had already been Germany's Chancellor for 4 months in 1920, created a grand coalition of members of the SPD, the German Democratic Party, the Centre Party and the German People's Party. The coalition was plagued by internal divisions right from the beginning, with each party more concerned with their self-interest than the interest of the government and eventually Müller asked President Paul von Hindenburg for emergency powers. When Hindenburg refused, Müller resigned, marking the end of the 'last genuinely democratic government of the Weimar Republic' on 27 March 1930

The recently-reformed Nazi Party contested the elections after the ban on the party was lifted in 1925. However, the party received **less than 3%** of the vote and won just 12 seats in the Reichstag. Adolf Hitler, who had been incarcerated in Landsberg prison for his involvement in the Beer Hall Putsch until Christmas 1924, had concentrated on re-establishing himself as the leader of the Nazi Party following his release rather than on the party's electability.

2,6 %

German federal election, 1928

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/–
Social Democratic Party	**9,152,979**	29.8	153	+22
German National People's Party	**4,381,563**	14.2	73	- 30
Centre Party	**3,712,152**	12.1	61	- 8
Communist Party of Germany	3,264,793	10.6	54	+9
German People's Party	2,679,703	8.7	45	–6
German Democratic Party	1,479,374	4.8	25	–7
Reich Party of the German Middle Class	1,387,602	4.5	23	+11
Bavarian People's Party	945,644	3.1	17	–2
Nazi Party	**810,127**	**2.6**	12	–2

Otto Wels
SPD

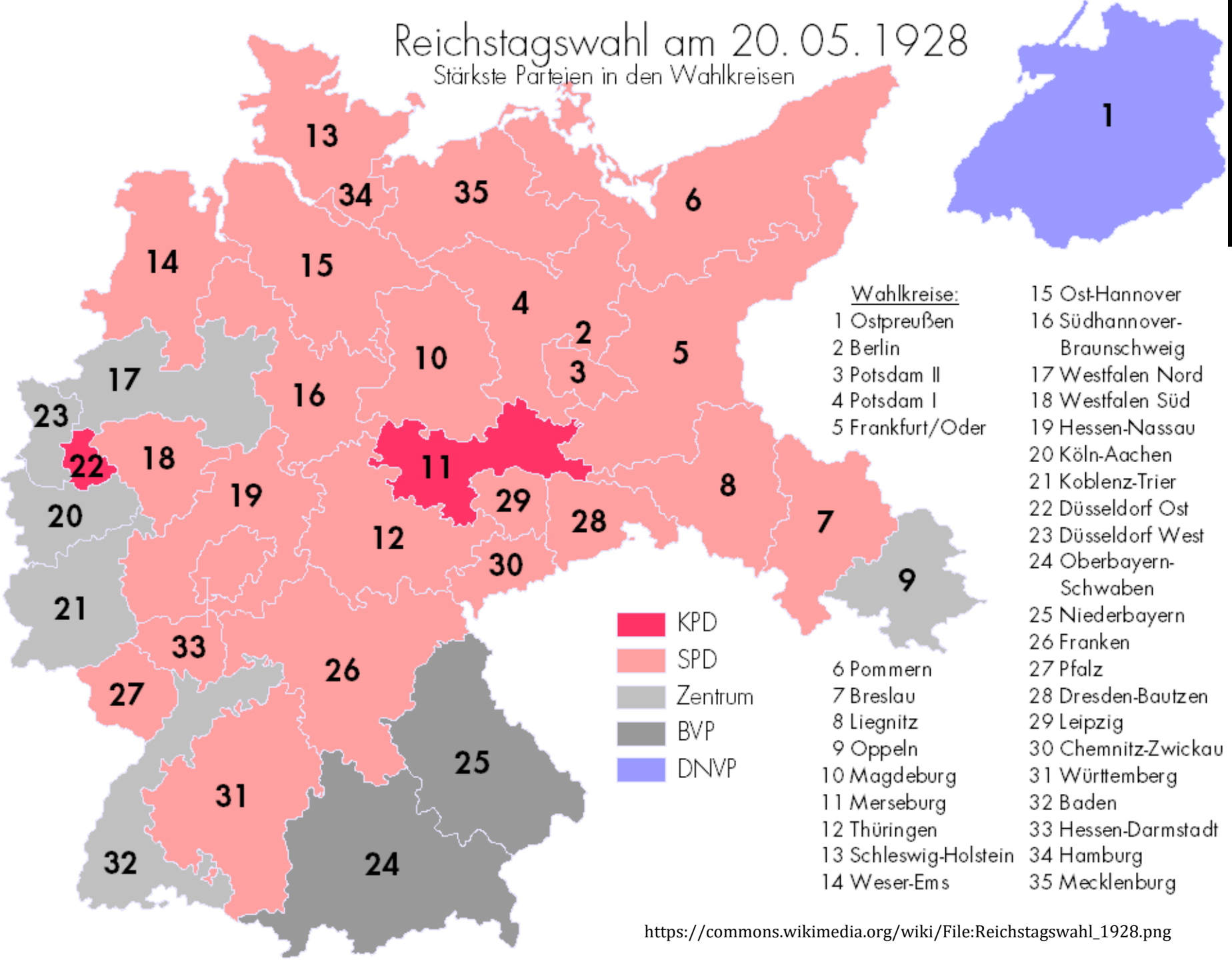
29,8 %

Kuno von Westarp
DNVP

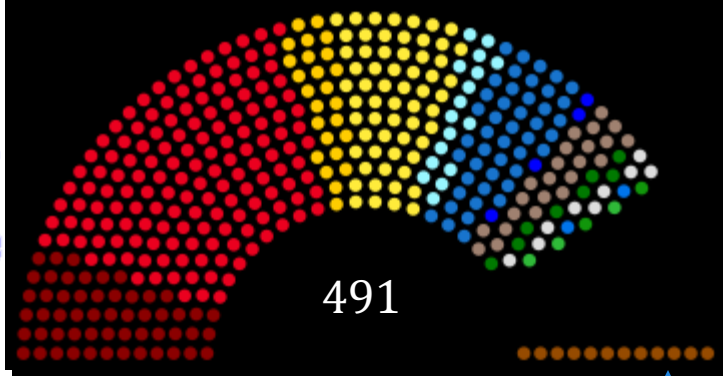
14,2 %

Wilhelm Marx
Centre

12,1 %



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Reichstagswahl_1928.png



Composition of the Reichstag after the 1928 election.

Nazi Party 12 seats

2,6 % of the votes

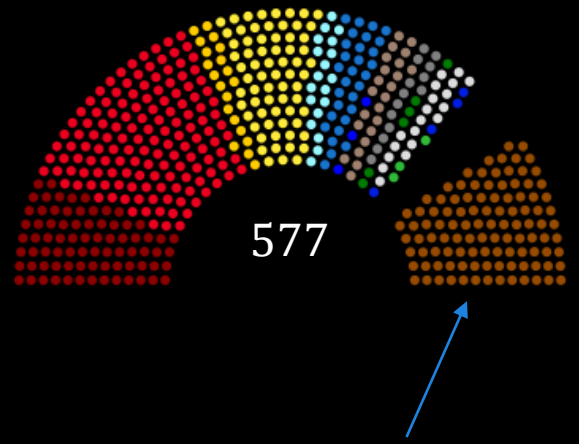
German federal election, 1930

The German federal election occurred on 14 September 1930. Despite losing 10 seats, the **Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD)** remained the largest party in the Reichstag, winning 143 of the 577 seats, whilst the **Nazi Party (NSDAP)** dramatically increased its number of seats from 12 to 107.

The two major parties of the **Weimar Coalition, the SPD and Zentrum (Centre Party)** had no high gains or losses – in contrast to their partner DVP, but the two results of the elections seen as dramatic were the NSDAP reaching more than 100 seats, and big gains for the **Communists (KPD)** – an additional 23 seats.

German federal election, 1930

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/–
Social Democratic Party	**8,575,244**	24.53	143	–10
National Socialist German Workers Party	**6,379,672**	18.25	107	+95
Communist Party of Germany	**4,590,160**	13.13	77	+23
Centre Party	4,127,000	11.81	68	+7
German National People's Party	2,457,686	7.03	41	–32
German People's Party	1,577,365	4.51	30	–15
German State Party	1,322,034	3.78	20	–5
Reich Party of the German Middle Class	1,361,762	3.90	23	0
Christian-National Peasants' and Farmers' Party	1,108,043	3.17	19	+10
Bavarian People's Party	1,058,637	3.03	19	+2



Nazi Party 18,25 %
107 seats

Otto Wels
SPD

24,53 %

Adolf Hitler
NSDAP

18,25 %

Ernst Thälmann
KPD

13,13 %

1930 German Federal Election					
	% of votes	seats won	% of seats	difference	difference squared
Social Democratic	24.53	143	24.78	0.25	0.06
NSDAP (Nazi)	18.25	107	18.54	0.29	0.09
Communist	13.13	77	13.34	0.21	0.05
Centre	11.81	68	11.79	-0.02	0.00
National People's	7.03	41	7.11	0.08	0.01
German People's	4.51	30	5.2	0.69	0.48
German State	3.78	20	3.47	-0.31	0.10
Reich Middle Class	3.90	23	3.99	0.09	0.01
Christian National	3.17	19	3.29	0.12	0.02
Bavarian People's	3.03	19	3.29	0.26	0.07
Christian Social	2.48	14	2.43	-0.05	0.00
German Farmers	0.97	6	1.04	0.07	0.00
Conservative	0.83	4	0.69	-0.14	0.02
Agricultural	0.55	3	0.52	-0.03	0.00
German-Hannoverian	0.41	3	0.52	0.11	0.01
other parties	1.62	0	0	-1.62	2.62
	100	*577*	*100*	Total	3.53
	0.00			Halved	1.77
				Sq Rt	**1.33**

Results

The 1930 German election drew 82% voter turn-out, an unprecedented event. The incumbent political party, the ***Social Democratic Party (SPD),*** lead in the popular vote and won 143 seats, a loss of 10 seats from the previous election. ***The National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP)*** rose to the second largest party with **18.25%** of the vote and took home 107 seats, a remarkable additional 95 seats over the last election. The only other party to gain seats was the **Communist Party**, which won **13.13%** of the vote, securing 77 seats, a gain of 23 additional seats than the last election. 34 other political parties shared the remainder of the votes. The excessive amount of small political parties created vast amounts of wasted votes in the previous election of 1928, however, in the 1930 election there were fewer political parties on the ballot; therefore, there were less wasted votes. Parties that did not secure a seat acquired 413,000 wasted votes. This broad-based coalition government with polarized political ideologies created inefficiency within the Weimar Republic.

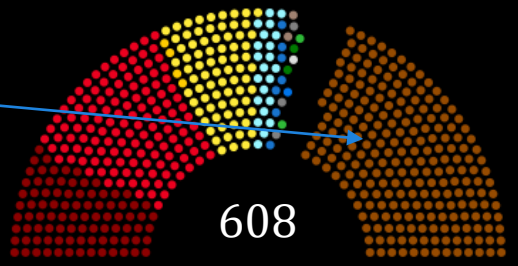
German federal election, July 1932

Federal elections were held in Germany on 31 July 1932, following the premature dissolution of the Reichstag. They saw great gains by the Nazi Party, which for the first time became the largest party in parliament but without winning a majority.

By Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-03497A / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54140 66

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/–
National Socialist German Workers Party	**13,745,680**	**37.27**	**230**	**+123**
Social Democratic Party of Germany	**7,959,712**	21.58	133	–10
Communist Party of Germany	**5,282,636**	14.32	89	+12
Centre Party	**4,589,430**	12.44	75	+7
German National People's Party	2,178,024	5.91	37	–4

Nazi Party 37,27 %
230 seats



Since 1929, Germany had been suffering from the Great Depression as unemployment rose from 8.5% to nearly 30% between 1929 and 1932, while industrial production inside Germany dropped roughly 42%.

In March 1932, presidential elections pitted the incumbent Hindenburg, supported by pro-democratic parties, against Hitler and communist Ernst Thälmann. Hitler gained roughly a third of the vote and was thus defeated in the second round in April by Hindenburg, who gained a narrow majority.

However, Hindenburg at the end of May 1932 was persuaded to dismiss Brüning as chancellor, replacing him with Franz von Papen, a renegade of the Centre Party, and a non-partisan "Cabinet of Barons". Papen's cabinet had almost no support in parliament and only three days after his appointment, when faced with the opposition, had Hindenburg dissolve the Reichstag and called for new elections, for 31 July, so that the Reichstag could not dismiss him immediately

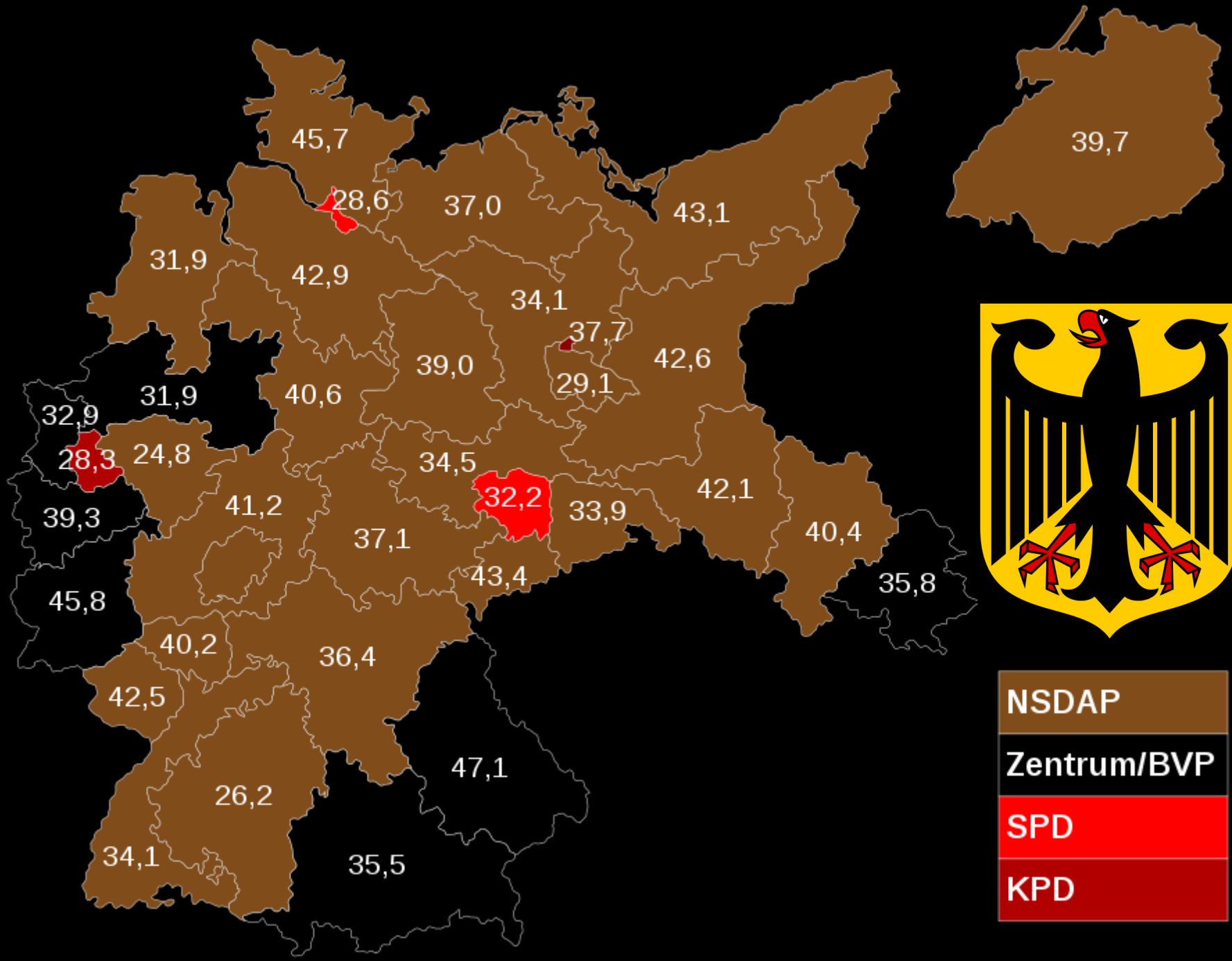
The election campaign took place under violent circumstances, as Papen lifted the token ban on the SA, the Nazi paramilitary, which Brüning had banned during the last days of his administration. That inevitably led to clashes with the communist paramilitants.

German federal election, November 1932

Federal elections were held in Germany on 6 November 1932. They saw a significant drop in votes for the Nazi Party and increases for the Communists and the national conservative DNVP. It was the last free and fair all-German election before the Nazi seizure of power on **30 January 1933**, as the following **elections of March 1933** were already accompanied by massive suppression, especially against Communist and Social Democratic politicians. The next free election was not held until August 1949 in West Germany; the next free all-German elections took place in December 1990 after reunification.

The results of the November 1932 election were a great disappointment for the Nazis. Although they emerged once more as the largest party by far, they had fewer seats than before, and failed to form a government coalition in the Reichstag parliament. So far Chancellor Franz von Papen, a former member of the Catholic Centre Party, had governed without parliamentary support relying on legislative decrees promulgated by Reich President Paul von Hindenburg according to Article 48 of the Weimar Constitution. However, on 12 September 1932 Papen had to ask Hindenburg to dissolve the parliament in order to preempt a motion of no confidence tabled by the Communist Party, which was expected to pass (since the Nazis were expected to vote in favour, as they also desired new elections). Thus, the election of **November 1932** was held following this dissolution of parliament in September. The DNVP, which had backed Papen, gained 15 seats as a result.

After the election, Chancellor Papen urged Hindenburg to continue to govern by emergency decrees. Nevertheless, on 3 December he was superseded by his Defence Minister Kurt von Schleicher who in talks with the left wing of the Nazi Party led by Gregor Strasser tried to build up a Third Position (Querfront) strategy. These plans failed when in turn Hitler disempowered Strasser and approached Papen for coalition talks. Papen obtained Hindenburg's consent to form the Hitler Cabinet on **30 January 1933.**



Adolf Hitler

NSDAP	**33,09 %**
Zentrum/BVP	11,93 %
SPD	20,43 %
KPD	16,86 %

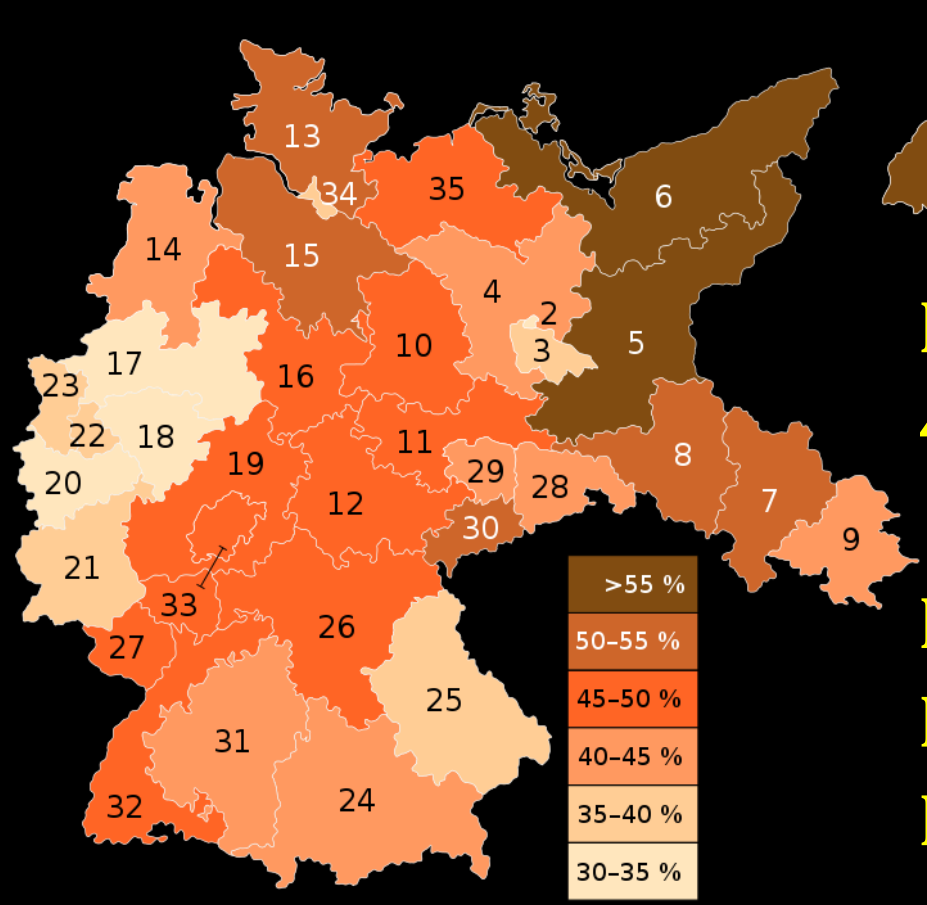
German federal election, March 1933

Federal elections were held in Germany on **5 March 1933**, after the Nazi seizure of power and just six days after the Reichstag fire. Nazi stormtroopers had unleashed a campaign of violence against the **Communist Party (KPD),** left-wingers, trade unionists, the Social Democratic Party of Germany, and the centre-right Catholic Centre Party. They were the last multi-party elections in a unified Germany until 1990.

The **1933 election** followed the previous year's ***two elections (July and November) and Hitler's appointment as Chancellor. In the months before the 1933 election,*** **brownshirts and SS displayed "terror, repression and propaganda across the land", and Nazi organizations "monitored" the vote process. In Prussia 50,000 members of the SS, SA and Stahlhelm were ordered to monitor the votes by acting Interior Minister Hermann Göring, as auxiliary police.**
The Nazis registered **a large increase in votes in 1933**. However, despite **waging a campaign of terror against their opponents, the Nazis only tallied 43.9 percent of the vote**, well short of a majority. They needed the votes of their coalition partner, the German National People's Party (DNVP), for a bare working majority in the Reichstag.

This would be the last contested election held in Germany before World War II. Two weeks after the election, Hitler was able to pass an **Enabling Act on 23 March with the support of all non-socialist parties, which effectively gave Hitler dictatorial powers. Within months, the Nazis banned all other parties, dissolved the Reichstag and replaced it with a rubberstamp legislature comprising only Nazis and pro-Nazi "guests."**

By Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-14381 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5481324
Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-14381
Foto: o.Ang. | 5. März 1933



Nazi Party
43,91 %

Not a free Election
Hitler Dictator

Nazi vote share, with majorities in E Prussia (1), Frankfurt (Oder) (5), Pomerania (6), Breslau (7), Liegnitz (8), Schleswig-Holstein (13), E Hanover (15), and Chemnitz-Zwickau (30)

German election and referendum, 1936

Parliamentary elections were held in Germany on 29 March 1936. They took the form of a single-question referendum, asking voters whether they approved of the military occupation of the Rhineland and a single party list for the new Reichstag composed exclusively of Nazis and nominally independent "guests" of the party. Like previous elections in Nazi Germany, it was characterized by high turnout, voter intimidation and a massively lopsided result, with an **official 99.0% turnout**. In a publicity stunt, a handful of voters were packed aboard the airships Graf Zeppelin and Hindenburg, which flew above the Rhineland as those aboard cast their ballots.

Electoral slip from the constituency of Upper Swabia-Bavaria, Hitler's home constituency, with seven prearranged candidates. Voters only had to accept or dismiss this option, as no other lists were available.

This was the first German election held after enactment of the Nuremberg Laws, which had removed citizenship rights (including the right to vote) from Jews and other ethnic minorities. In the previous elections and referenda under Nazi rule, Jews, Poles and other ethnic minorities had been allowed to vote without much interference, and even tacitly encouraged to vote against the Nazis (especially in districts that were known to have large populations of ethnic minorites). Their removal from the electoral process accounted for much of the large drop in invalid and negative votes, which fell from over five million in **1934** to barely half a million in **1936.** The Nazis also lowered the voting age, in large part so as to ensure that the electorate was about the same size as in **1934.**

The new Reichstag convened for formulary procedures on **30 January 1937** to re-elect its Presidium and Hermann Göring as President of the Reichstag.

Reichstag für Freiheit und Frieden

Wahlkreis Oberbayern-Schwaben

Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

Adolf Hitler

Heß Frick Göring Goebbels Wagner Wahl

Electoral slip from the constituency of Upper Swabia-Bavaria, Hitler's home constituency, with seven prearranged candidates. Voters only had to accept or dismiss this option, as no other lists were available.

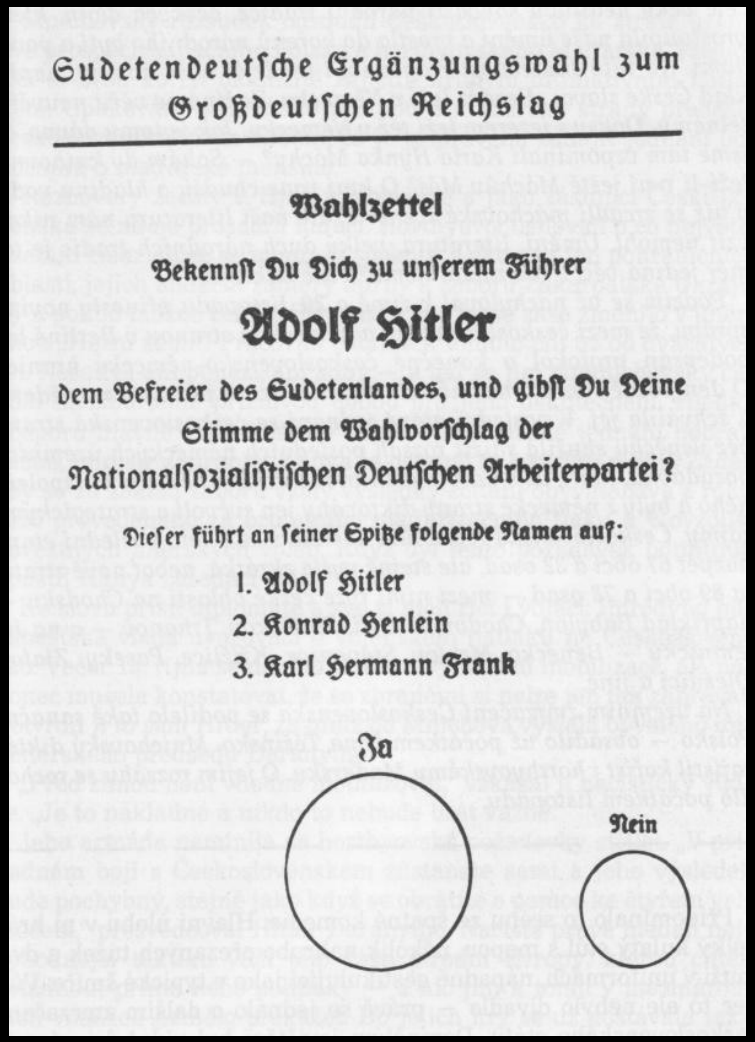
Yes 98,8 %

German election and referendum, 1938

Parliamentary elections were held in Germany (including recently annexed Austria) on 10 April 1938. They were the final elections to the Reichstag during Nazi rule and took the form of a single-question referendum asking whether voters approved of a single list of Nazis and pro-Nazi "guest" candidates for the 813-member Reichstag as well as the recent annexation of Austria (the Anschluss). **Turnout in the election was officially 99.5% with 98.9% voting "yes"**. In **Austria official figures claimed 99.73%** voted in favour with a turnout of **99.71%.**

The elections were held largely to rally official support from the new Ostmark (Austrian) province, although further elections for 41 seats were held in the recently annexed Sudetenland on 4 December. NSDAP candidates and "guests" officially received **97.32%** of the votes.

The new Reichstag, the last of the German Reich, convened for the first time on **30 January 1939**, electing a presidium headed by incumbent President of the Reichstag Hermann Göring. It convened only a further seven times, the last on **26 July 1942**. On **25 January 1943, Hitler postponed elections for a new Reichstag until after the war,** with the inaugural to take place after another electoral term, subsequently on 30 January **1947—by which point the body, and the Nazi state, had ceased to exist.**



Sudetendeutsche Ergänzungswahl zum Großdeutschen Reichstag

Wahlzettel

Bekennst Du Dich zu unserem Führer

Adolf Hitler

dem Befreier des Sudetenlandes, und gibst Du Deine Stimme dem Wahlvorschlag der Nationalsozialistischen Deutschen Arbeiterpartei?

Dieser führt an seiner Spitze folgende Namen auf:

1. Adolf Hitler
2. Konrad Henlein
3. Karl Hermann Frank

Ja

Nein

Ballot for the Sudeten election, carried out on 5 December after the annexation of the Sudetenland. It would be the last election under Nazi rule.

Volksabstimmung und Großdeutscher Reichstag

Stimmzettel

Bist Du mit der am 13. März 1938 vollzogenen

Wiedervereinigung Österreichs mit dem Deutschen Reich

einverstanden und stimmst Du für die Liste unseres Führers

Adolf Hitler?

Ja

Nein

Ballot reading: "Do you approve of the reunification of Austria with the German reich accomplished on 13 March 1938 and do you vote for the list of our Führer, Adolf Hitler?"

Adolf Hitler 20 April 1889 – 30 April 1945 was a German politician who was the leader of the **Nazi Party (NSDAP**), Chancellor of Germany from **1933 to 1945 and Führer ("Leader") of Nazi Germany from 1934 to 1945. As dictator**, Hitler initiated World War II in Europe with the invasion of Poland in September 1939, and was central to the Holocaust.

Hitler was born in Austria—then part of Austria-Hungary—and was raised near Linz. He moved to Germany in 1913 and was decorated during his service in the German Army in World War I. In 1919, he joined the German Workers' Party (DAP), the precursor of the NSDAP, and **was appointed leader of the NSDAP in 1921. In 1923, he attempted to seize power in a failed coup in Munich and was imprisoned.** While in jail he dictated the first volume of his autobiography and political manifesto Mein Kampf ("My Struggle"). After his **release from prison in 1924**, Hitler gained popular support by attacking the Treaty of Versailles and promoting Pan-Germanism, anti-semitism and anti-communism with charismatic oratory and Nazi propaganda. He frequently denounced international capitalism and communism as being part of a Jewish conspiracy.

The Nazi regime was responsible for the genocide of at least 5.5 million Jews and millions of other victims whom he and his followers deemed Untermenschen (sub-humans) or socially undesirable. Hitler and the **Nazi regime were also responsible for the killing of an estimated 19.3 million civilians and prisoners of war. In addition, 29 million soldiers and civilians died** as a result of military action in the European theatre. The number of civilians killed during the Second World War was unprecedented in warfare and the casualties constituted the deadliest conflict in human history.

EXTRA THE STARS AND STRIPES EXTRA

PARIS EDITION

Vol. 1—No. 279 1 Fr. 1 Fr. Wednesday, May 2, 1945

HITLER DEAD

Fuehrer Fell at CP, German Radio Says; Doenitz at Helm, Vows War Will Continue

German radio announced last night that Adolf Hitler had died ... Adm. Karl Doenitz, former commander-in-chief of the German Navy, has succeeded him as ruler of the Reich, the radio announcer went on.

Doenitz made a radio speech immediately after the announcement, Berlin said, and declared that Germany would continue to wage war. He stated he had been provided for more than a week in all world capitals.

The announcement did not give any details of how the Reich Fuehrer died. The news was broadcast after solemn Wagnerian music, including the "Twilight of the Gods," was played.

"Achtung, achtung," a voice said, "in a few minutes you will hear a solemn and important message to the German people. We are now going to play a statement of Reichsleiter's Security Appointee." Finally, the report of Hitler's death was given.

Hitler's death came three days after his brother-in-law, Hermann Fegelein, was killed by Russian partisans near the village of Dragon on Lake Garda.

Doenitz, in his speech, said that Hitler "died before at his command post," while Goebbels' radio said that he died in the Reich Chancellery in Berlin yesterday afternoon. Both long Europe Soldiers in Rus

(Continued on Page 8)

Churchill Hints Peace Is at Hand

A wagon piled high with corpses outside the crematorium in the liberated Buchenwald concentration camp (April 1945)

Victims